



How ESPP is organised

The European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP) is a not-for-profit association established under Belgian law (ASBL = 'Association Sans But Lucratif' n° 0568.830.863). ESPP was launched in Spring 2013, but initially operated as part of another organisation, before being legally established as an independent association in December 2014. The objectives and organisation of ESPP are defined by its statutes, which are publicly available on our website www.phosphorusplatform.eu

ESPP is governed by its General Assembly, made up of all of its legal "Members". These are organisations (e.g. companies, public bodies, research institutes NGOs ...) which pay the annual membership fee, and commit to supporting ESPP by signing its statutes. Members must have activities or products related to sustainable phosphorus management and must not carry out activities which are contrary to ESPP's objectives. Individuals (physical persons) cannot be Members.

ESPP also has 'Partners', under the same conditions, who pay the same fee as Members and benefit from the same visibility (web page, logo ...) but for reasons of legal administration do not wish to be legal members. Partners can participate in all ESPP meetings, but cannot vote.

ESPP's General Assembly, which usually meets annually in December, defines the following year's main objectives, actions, budgets and membership fees, and approves the legal accounts. It also elects ESPP's Board, which oversees the Platform's operation throughout the year and takes decisions where necessary. The Board can consist of organisations, or of individuals (Members or Partners or persons representing one of these). The Board elects the ESPP President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The President is ESPP's legal representative and spokesperson, and directly oversees the actions of the Platform's Secretariat. The Treasurer oversees ESPP's budget and finances. Both the President and the Treasurer have mandate to authorise payments from the ESPP bank account. The bank account is managed and payments made, after authorisation, by a legal/accounting company (TaxConsult Belgium). The Secretary oversees ESPP's legal operation and respect of the statutes.

The ESPP statutes define voting rules for decisions. However, ESPP actions and positions are defined by consensus, generally after consultation both of ESPP Members and Partners, and also of relevant networks or stakeholders with which ESPP works on an ad-hoc basis. ESPP's objective is to be inclusive, constructive and to bring together.

ESPP's day-to-day actions are carried out by the Secretariat, consisting of Chris Thornton (based in France) and Kimo van Dijk (based in the Netherlands), both under contracts to their respective companies (not full time). ESPP thus has at present no salaried staff and no personnel in Brussels at its legal address.

Chris Thornton is responsible for overall coordination of ESPP's actions, for administration, finances and membership, and particularly for policy and regulatory actions. Kimo van Dijk manages ESPP communications, work on nutrient flows and data, and particularly contacts with research and innovation.

ESPP works closely with national/regional nutrient or phosphorus Platforms, identified and validated by the ESPP Board and which pay the ESPP membership fee. At present these are: Netherlands Nutrient Platform, legally hosted by the Netherlands Water Partnership; German Phosphorus Platform DPP, a legally established not-for-profit association; BSAG, a pre-existing NGO which acts as the nutrient platform for the Baltic region, by convention signed with ESPP.

ESPP is registered for VAT (n° BE0568830863) and on the EU Transparency Register (n° 260483415852-40).

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